



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, June 13, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that the Diet on Wednesday enacted a law to revise the Civil Code and lower the age of adulthood to 18 from 20. All commercial networks gave top play to reports that North Korea's state media Rodong Sinmun highly praised the U.S.-DPRK summit held in Singapore on Tuesday and reported that President Trump expressed his intention to suspend U.S.-ROK military drills and provide security guarantees while the U.S. and North Korea are engaged in dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga says North Korea issue “no easy task”

NHK reported at noon that following the U.S.-DPRK summit on Tuesday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning: "The North Korea issue is no easy task that can be solved in one meeting.... We will continue to work closely with the United States to urge North Korea to completely implement the UNSC resolutions and bring true peace to Northeast Asia." On the abduction issue, Suga reportedly said: "The abduction issue is the top priority of the Abe administration. Japan will directly interact with North Korea with the strong support of President Trump, and our commitment to proactively resolve the issue remains unchanged." He went on to say: "If we are going to hold a Japan-DPRK summit, it is extremely important that it will lead to the resolution of the North Korea nuclear, missile, and abduction issues. We hope that a summit will be realized in a way that will resolve these issues."

Onodera comments on President Trump's remarks suggesting future U.S.-ROK drills may be suspended

NHK reported at noon that Defense Minister Onodera told reporters this morning that although North

Korea expressed its intent to denuclearize, whether it will actually completely eliminate its nuclear weapons and missiles must be assessed and Japan will continue to stay vigilant and maintain pressure. Concerning President Trump's indication that he intends to suspend U.S.-ROK military drills in the future, the defense chief reportedly said: "The U.S.-ROK joint military drills and the U.S. forces in South Korea play an important role in the security of East Asia. We hope to continue to share this view with the U.S. as well as South Korea."

- [Gist of PM Abe's remarks after phone call with President Trump](#) (Sankei)
- [Prime Minister Abe's statements in his press interviews after U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ruling, opposition parties hail U.S.-DPRK summit, but voice concern over lack of information on abduction, nuclear issues](#) (Mainichi)
- [Business community gives U.S.-DPRK summit high marks](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Commentary: Summit puts East Asia at cusp of radical paradigm shift](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kim's bare-bones pledge leaves room to buy time](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan determined to settle N. Korea abduction issue by talks with Kim](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abductees' kin renew hope but some let down by Trump-Kim summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe to face tough political decision if talks with DPRK resume on abduction issue](#) (Nikkei)
- [FOCUS: Abduction issue raised in historic summit but challenges loom for Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump conveys Japan's stance on N. Korean abductions to Kim: Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: Japan should make own efforts to rescue abductees at an early date](#) (Sankei)
- [Expert: Denuclearization depends on the U.S.](#) (Mainichi)
- [Expert: Change in DPRK's stance presents opportunity for Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Expert: Next focus is on whether the summit agreement can be translated into action in U.S., DPRK](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Expert: Japan should shift to dialogue policy with North Korea](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Trump and Kim offer just a glimpse into promised 'new history'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FOCUS: Verification key to gauging Kim's promise of denuclearization](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Make Trump-Kim summit a 1st step to denuclearization, eased tensions](#) (The Japan News)
- [FOCUS: Trump must ensure denuclearization precedes peace treaty with N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan mulls contact with DPRK officials in Mongolia](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan to bolster development assistance to Laos](#) (Kyodo News)

38th parallel in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Korean residents in Japan, with a focus on young Koreans as they have watched developments on the Korean Peninsula over the past two months. The program said students at pro-Pyongyang schools are criticized whenever news of North Korea's

nuclear tests and missile launches is reported. The program said even young Koreans in Japan are often divided between supporters of the ROK and supporters of the DPRK, adding that many of them are strongly hoping for Korean unification.

ECONOMY

- [Japan enacts law to ratify Trans-Pacific trade deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't energy commission urges power firms to cooperate with one another in plutonium consumption](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition motions to delay Lower House committee's vote on casino bill](#) (Jiji Press)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 12, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

U.S. military resumes F-15 flights

NHK reported at noon that the U.S. military resumed flights of F-15 fighters belonging to Kadena AB this morning following their suspension after one crashed in waters off Naha on Monday. The network said Okinawa and local communities are reacting sharply to the resumption of flights only two days after the incident without any clarification of its cause. The U.S. military reportedly announced on Tuesday evening that it has confirmed that the incident did not indicate a safety issue with all F-15 fighters. Vice Governor Jahana reportedly told the network: "No matter how much we protest, they have repeatedly resumed flights immediately after incidents without listening to the voices of concern from the people of Okinawa. It is outrageous that such a situation has become an everyday affair."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Onodera told reporters this morning: "They found that the incident did not point to a safety issue involving all the F-15 fighters belonging to Kadena AB. The U.S. side confirmed safety, inspected all the F-15 fighters, and decided to resume flights."

- [Japan worried over U.S. plan to suspend military drills with S. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Vice governor comments on U.S. bases on Okinawa in response to U.S.-DPRK summit

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Vice Governor Jahana welcomed the outcome of the U.S.-DPRK summit held in Singapore on Tuesday by saying that an easing of tensions in Asia would lead to a reduction of the burden on Okinawa and diminish the need to construct the Futenma replacement facility at Henoko. During a meeting with Okinawa Defense Bureau Director Nakajima and MOFA Okinawa office chief Kawamura on Tuesday, in which the vice governor lodged a protest over the recent crash involving an F-15 fighter, Jahana expressed hope that the GOJ will review the U.S. military's presence in Okinawa in view of the easing tensions in the world. The vice governor

told reporters after the meeting that amid the changing security situation, the necessity of stationing the U.S. military in Okinawa will be questioned. He added that although vigilance against possible contingencies in Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula has been given as the reason for the U.S. military presence in Okinawa, this argument would be less compelling if the possibility of a Korean contingency diminished.

